

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3565

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR OREP (EAGLETON, THOMAS F.) CY TU
SUBJECT: EAGLETON VISIT

REF: NICOSIA 3562

1. AMPLIFYING REFTEL, WE NOTE OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST FROM SENATOR EAGLETON'S VISIT. ALTHOUGH HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS WERE RESOLUTELY SUPPORTIVE OF GREEK POSITIONS, TWO THEMES COULD HARDLY HAVE GIVEN GOC MUCH JOY. FIRST, EAGLETON UNDERSCORED NEED FOR COMPROMISE POLITICAL SITUATION TO CYPRUS PROBLEM, MAKING CLEAR THERE WILL HAVE TO BE SOME (ADDITIONAL) GIVE ON PART OF GREEK CYPRIOTS. THOUGH ALWAYS CAREFULLY STATED, SENSE OF THE SENATOR'S WORDS RUN COUNTER TO MAKARIOS' "WE WILL NEVER ACCEPT FAITS ACCOMPLIS" LITANY. SECOND, EAGLETON RETURNED SEVERAL TIMES TO IDEA THAT "1976 IS YEAR OF DECISION FOR CYPRUS", THAT SOME SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND IN NEXT 12 MONTHS. GOC COULD NOT MISS IMPLICATION THAT, REALISTICALLY, THERE IS LIMIT TO CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR CYPRUS CAUSE. BOTH POINTS CAME ACROSS UNMISTAKABLY DURING DINNER TOASTS, WHEN EAGLETON EX-POUNDED ON IDEA OF COMPROMISE AND WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO PRAISE CLERIDES LAVISHLY (NOT A LITTLE TO LATTER'S DISCOMFORT, SINCE MAKARIOS' NAME WAS NEVER MENTIONED) AS MAN ON WHOSE SHOULDERS FUTURE OF CYPRUS RESTED.

2. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, EAGLETON
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VIRTUALLY ACKNOWLEDGED TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO HAD BEEN

MISTAKE FROM PRACTICAL POLITICAL VIEWPOINT (ALTHOUGH NECESSARY AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE) AND THAT CONGRESS WOULD PROBABLY NOT CHOOSE TO REIMPOSE IT IN FULL DURING 1976. HE ADMITTED THAT JUDICIOUS THREAT OF EMBARGO RATHER THAN ACTUAL IMPOSITION MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN A MORE EFFECTIVE TACTIC WITH TURKS. AS FOR FUTURE, CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF MILITARY CREDITS FOR GOT AND AUTHORIZATION OF FUTHER SALES MIGHT BE POSITIVE INDUCEMENT WITH GOT TO BE FLEXIBLE IN NEGOTIATION. SENATOR EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ULTIMATE PRICE TAG OF A CYPRUS SOLUTION (INCLUDING AID TO GREECE AND TURKEY AS WELL AS FOR CYPRUS' REHABILITATION) AND RESOLUTION OF DEFENSE INSTALLATION PROBLEM WITH TURKEY MIGHT RUN TO AT LEAST ONE HALF BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR FOR SEVERL YEARS. HE CONTRASTED THIS WITH FAR GREATER AMOUNTS ENTAILED IN PROGRESS IN MIDDLE EAST AND SAID HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM WITH CONGRESS. CRAWFORD

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